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URBAN DISTRICT OF CLEVEDON

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1958

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the climatic point of view the year must be classified as a poor one and, as might be expected in a dull, damp and sunless period, there were many minor maladies. During the first quarter there were some influenzal pneumonias among children and throughout the remainder of the year there were sporadic cases of virus infection with 'colds' and coughs. October provided us with some three weeks of beautiful weather and at no time did we suffer any serious epidemic; we had no case of poliomyelitis and an average age at death of seventy-seven years, coupled with an infant mortality rate of zero may be cited as an index to the good general health of the community.

It is gratifying to report progress with the provision of houses suitable for the accommodation of the elderly and to acknowledge the part which private philanthropy has taken in this enterprise. Further provision in this direction may still be necessary as older and substandard properties come to be scheduled for closure. Many basements which were never meant to be occupied as independent dwellings have so deteriorated from age or neglect that their closure cannot be postponed. It may be pertinent to comment here that a caravan is a poor substitute for a traditional house.

The local hospital, the maternity home and the ambulance brigade have all served the town well and the devoted work of the district nurses is beyond all praise. It is hoped that this work is recognised for its real worth before failure of recognition or public apathy leads to a loss of recruits to this essential service. Much credit is due to the general practitioners and the school medical officers for the valuable preventative campaigns they have all but gratuitously shouldered in protecting the child population against diphtheria and whooping cough and now in extending the campaign against polio, from which we hope they will have the satisfaction of seeing equally satisfactory results. It may be noted here that confinements in the maternity homes have fallen from 82.2% to 72.2% during the year; provision of home helps may have been a contributory factor to the higher incidence of domiciliary confinements.

In the statistics which follow I have included a summary of some of the work done by your public health inspector and I acknowledge, with thanks, the help I have had from all your staff, from the Somerset County and Bristol Health authorities and from my professional colleagues.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

G. MACLEOD.

15th May, 1959.

STATISTICS

Area of District	3,464 acres
Population (mid-year estimate)	9,770
No. of inhabited houses and flats	3,231
Rateable value	£144,178
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£564
Comparability factors - For births	1.19
For deaths	0.62

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	66	73	139
Illegitimate	6	3	9
	72	76	148

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 17.9 (corrected)

Still Births	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	6.7
Total live and still births	149.
Infant deaths	0.
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	0.
Neo natal (first four weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births	0.
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	6%
Maternal deaths	0.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	0.
Percentage of children born in Maternity Homes	72.2%

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
	62	81	143
Death Rate			14.6
		(corrected)	9.1
Average age at death			77 years

Some of the principal causes of death were:-

	Male	Female	Total
Cancer of lung and bronchus	3	0	3
Other malignant diseases	5	10	15
Coronary disease	18	17	35
Other heart diseases	13	22	35
Cerebral Vascular disease	9	17	26
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis and respiratory diseases	1	1	2

Notifiable Diseases	No. of Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0
Measles	13	0	0
Whooping Cough	30	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	9	8	0
Pneumonia	11	4	5

Tuberculosis	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Age-group
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	-	-	-	1	5 - 14
	-	2	-	-	25 - 44
	1	-	-	-	45 - 64
	1	-	-	-	65 and over
Totals	2	2	0	1	

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis

Sanitation

Chemical and bacteriological examination of the water supply always confirms its purity.

There has been much useful investigation into the condition of the low-level sewer which should lead to its more efficient coping with the extra load which is being placed upon it, and the wider aspect of the sewage system has been engaging the attention of your Surveyor. The extension of the sewer to Valley Road, begun last year, has been completed at a cost of £3,000.

The emptying of cesspits, the cleansing of the streets and the disposal of house and trade refuse are all efficiently carried out.

Housing

Action taken during the year

(1) Number of houses included in Clearance Areas for which Orders are still to be made	Nil
(2) Number of houses in Clearance Areas repaired under Section 48, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(3) Number of houses demolished under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(4) Number of houses demolished or closed under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	3
(5) Number of temporary dwellings demolished	Nil
(6) Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9, Housing Act, 1957	Nil
(7) Number of unfit houses occupied under licence	Nil

(8) Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule)

(a) Applications received	5
(b) Certificates issued	2

Houses erected during the year

By Local Authority	0
By Private Enterprise	43
By Private Enterprise (conversions)	2
By Private Enterprise (in course of erection)	12

Houses erected from 1st May, 1945 to 31st December, 1958

By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise
312	220

20 Prefabs are still in satisfactory occupation.
30 houses for old people are proposed for 1959 programme by Local Authority.
143 applications are on the Council's list at the end of 1958.

Improvement Grants

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:-

	Received		Approved	Rejected
31/7/49 to 31/12/58	Applications	46	42	1
	Dwellings	46	42	1

Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupier during the year 11

Average cost per dwelling approved during the year £474.

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority . . . .£2,855.

Camping Sites, Caravans - No change from last year.

Food

Milk

(a) Number of registered distributors 5
(b) Number of registered dairy premises (other than dairy farms) 4
(c) Number of licensed dealers of designated milk 4
(d) Number of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside this area 0

Milk Sampling

Designation	Samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin tested	39	39	0
Pasteurised	66	66	0
Sterilised	27	27	0

Ice Cream

Premises registered for:-

(a) Manufacture and retail 0
(b) Manufacture only 0
(c) Retail only 26

Samples taken:-

	Hot Mix	Cold Mix
Grade 1	31	0
Grade 2	7	0
Grade 3	0	0
Grade 4	0	0

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955

All hotels and cafes have been visited and conditions have been found satisfactory. Some shops tend to display cooked, unwrapped foods without a protective covering. No prosecutions have been necessary.

The only slaughterhouse in the district is owned by the Local Authority and is leased to a private slaughterman. There are no bacon factories or knackers yards and no premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Carcases and Offal of Animals inspected at Slaughterhouse

Number killed and inspected:-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
	65	0	1601	537	172
Meat in lbs. condemned for:-					
(a) Tuberculosis	14	0	0	0	22
(b) Cysticercosis	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Other conditions	226	0	3	3	146

Public Health Staff

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